

12 Aug
Sept

23 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact Report [redacted] and [redacted], this date, covert meeting place

1. [redacted] was contacted by the undersigned on 23 September 1957 in regard to the possibility of his being sent back to Jordan for three months TDI for the purpose of running independent operations into Syria from Amman using local Circassians.

2. Present status. [redacted] stated that he is now employed by Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. He claims he is presently earning a salary of \$400 per month plus commission. He used his relations with this insurance company as cover for his trip to Washington. He claims to be active in the Circassian community in Patterson, New Jersey, serving as an advisor and interpreter to other immigrants. He indicated willingness to undertake a mission for us. He does not appear to be disposed to quibble over money. In connection with cover problems, [redacted]'s older brother, 51, single, is still in Amman and has been pronounced cured of the TB which formerly prevented his immigration. [redacted] can use the natural cover of visiting his brother and assisting in expediting the latter's immigration but he believes that this will not provide an adequate excuse for a stay in the area of as long as three months. We discussed the possibility of his representing some refugee or emigre group such as the Tolstoy Foundation, but since he stated he was unable to arrange such cover himself, we discussed other possibilities, including that of having him represent an American firm, either real or fictitious, perhaps in the export-import line. This problem remains to be solved and Cover Division will be consulted.

3. Operational Possibilities. General. [redacted] commented that the Circassians in Jordan and Syria represent a valuable untapped pool of potential assets. He commented that particularly in Syria the Circassians are not only motivated against Russians and Communists but also against the Arab government itself, the reason being that in Syria, unlike in Jordan, the Circassians have been suppressed by the Arab [redacted] because the Circassians previously supported the French prior to the expulsion of the French from Syria. He estimates there are between 13,000 and 20,000 Circassians in Syria. [redacted] expressed confidence in being able to gather Syrian OB intel in the Qunaytra district and elsewhere with relative ease. He points out that the Circassians are numerous in Qunaytra, that there are many lower and middle level Circassian officers in the Syrian Army. He commented that he expected to meet with little reluctance from Circassians asked to provide intel, but that if we had political action in mind, greater care would have to be taken. [redacted] himself raised the possibility of running Circassian double agents against Russians in Damascus

*What will
a tell need
re support
service?*

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

*letter from
NOSTRIL
to the
Country*

and asked whether if we wanted such operations and if he were able to initiate such operations, we would be able to promise safe haven to such agents, including immigration to the United States. NOSTRIL also would like to be advised as to our attitude about the danger of his activities becoming known to the British; for instance, he remarked that Muhammad Maher, an important Jordanian Circassian Army officer, is a good friend of his but that he has long suspected that Maher was connected with the British. Thus his conversations with Maher would be limited by the degree to which we desire to conceal our operations from the British.

Specific. NOSTRIL listed the following specific potential assets:

a. In Syria

- Definitely how long since
he visited Syria
how often?
Where now?
What time?*
- (1) Muhammad Ali Bey Azmat, a retired Circassian brigadier general who spent 27 years in the Syrian gendarmerie and was chief of the gendarmerie at the time of his retirement; from Qunaytra; well known to NOSTRIL.
 - (2) Abdul Karim, a former aide to Qunwatli; this man worked with Husni Zaim and his star faded with the assassination of Zaim. Present status unknown, but is believed to have many useful contacts; a Circassian.
 - (3) "Abu Khalil," (full correct name not known). Husband of a Circassian girl from Amman; one of his brothers-in-law is still in Amman and a close friend of NOSTRIL. Another of his wife's sisters is the wife of Abu Nuwwar; NOSTRIL has dined with Abu Khalil on several occasions and believes that it was in this officer's home that Abu Nuwwar stayed immediately after his flight from Jordan; ~~he~~ *she* is still in the Army and was at one time one of the commanders of the Homs military district.
 - (4) A Circassian GP from Qunaytra. This man is a personal friend of NOSTRIL; his Russian name is Bagov, but NOSTRIL has forgotten his Arab name.
 - (5) Mahmud Sharkasi, formerly employed by IPC; used to live in Damascus; formerly an important smuggler of Circassians wishing to travel black between Syria and Jordan; possibly connected with BIS.
 - (6) The mother of Abu Nuwwar's wife. This woman was born in Amman and now lives in Damascus. She is well known to NOSTRIL.
 - (7) The wife of Khalid al Azm. This woman is a Circassian; NOSTRIL has met her a few times and believes there may be some way of approaching her.
 - (8) Son-in-law of Said Mufti in Amman; lives in Damascus and may be approachable through Mufti.
 - (9) NOSTRIL claims to know several Circassian sheikhs in Qunaytra.

*I know him
he is in govt
bank Damascus*

b. In Jordan

- (1) Thomas Maher, important Jordan Army officer, may be connected with British; Circassian, well known to NOSTRIL.
- (2) Assat Kandur, colonel or major general in Arab Legion; very tough; friend of NOSTRIL.
- (3) Ozair Ayyub, a lieutenant believed to be chief of the police college in Amman, Circassian, born in Qunaytra.
- (4) Samir Rifa'i, old friend.
- (5) Muhammad Ali Bida, very close friend of NOSTRIL; secretary in the office of the prime minister.
- (6) Abbas Pasha Mirza, ex-Cabinet minister; useful contacts.
- (7) Said Mufti, ex-prime minister, presently head of the Senate, susceptible to whisky and women but not to straight money bribery; has useful contacts throughout the Middle East.
- (8) Muhammad Khair Peta, Chief accountant in Ministry of Agriculture; an important molder of political opinion among the younger Circassian element in Amman; also useful potential cut-out.
- (9) Lt. Col. Muhammad Issaq, Chief of Jordanian MAC.
- (10) Numerous Syrian Arabs now living in Amman and married to Circassian girls.
- Bureau!* (11) Bakerjian, Armenian employee of UNRWA Amman, useful refugee contacts throughout Jordan, Syria, Lebanon.
- (12) Ismail Janbek, resides Mafrqa, employed many years by the IPC; has always had good income, may be connected BIS; very susceptible to money; information can be elicited from him also without revealing particular interest.

4. Miscellaneous. Observations. NOSTRIL said he could leave as soon as we desired. He has a valid Jordanian passport. He would like us to arrange a telegram to him in Patterson, stating his brother is seriously ill, in order to provide him with an excuse for asking for leave from his employer. He claims that once he gets to Amman he can extend his leave without pay by claiming to be sick. We might consider having OCL go to his company and ask them to lend him to us.

5. He claims there is no problem in leaving the country with respect to his alien resident status as long as he abides by the regulations.

6. No commitments were made but it was stated by the undersigned that if we should make a firm request for him to take this trip we would probably offer

him in the neighborhood of what he was receiving during his SR training, namely \$400 per month plus expenses.

7. NOSTRIL was told that should he go to Amman he would be expected to operate very discreetly and not play the role of the big shot which he formerly played in Amman.

JWD:mm

Distribution:

orig - Mr. E
1 - Mr. E
1 - Mr. E

NEA 7-1J

*Very well handled
VC.*